

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25-32 are pending in the present application. Claim 25 is allowed according to the Examiner. Claims 26-32 are canceled in this Amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer, and replaced with new claims 33-37. The new claims are all completely supported by the application as originally filed and thus they do not raise any issue of new matter. Entry of these new claims into the file of the present application is respectfully requested as this response is believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance or, at a minimum, to materially reduce the issues for an appeal.

Further to the above, the specification has been amended at a number of locations to more clearly describe applicants' invention. These amendments are not believed to add any new matter to the application. Thus, entry of the specification amendments into the file of this case is also earnestly solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In paragraph 4 on p. 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the rejections of claims 15-18 or 4-5 and 15-18 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for lacking enablement are maintained for reasons of record for the newly presented claims 26-27 and 31-32.

In response, applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 26-32, without prejudice or disclaimer, in this Amendment is believed to render the rejection moot. Furthermore, new claims 33-37 are believed to meet all of the requirements for enablement under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Applicants, thus, respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the subject §112 rejection of claims 26-27 and 31-32.

Further to the above, in paragraph 5 on p. 3 of the Action the Examiner stated that the rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for lacking sufficient enablement is maintained for reasons of record for newly added claims 28-30.

In response, applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 28-30, without prejudice or disclaimer, in this Amendment is believed to render the rejection moot. Furthermore, new claims 33-37 as noted above are believed to meet all of the enablement requirements under 35 USC 112.

The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 28-30 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

In paragraph 6 on p. 3 of the Office Action, it states that the rejections of claims 6-10 under 102(b) or 103(a) are maintained for reasons of record for 'newly added' claims 28-30.

In response, applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 28-30, without prejudice or disclaimer, is believed to render the rejection(s) moot. Furthermore, new claims 33-37 are believed to meet all of the requirements for both Novelty and Inventive Step under, respectively, 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103.

The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the §§102/103 rejections of claims 28-30.

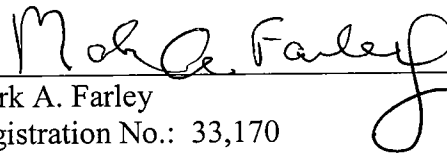
Summary

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 25. Furthermore, applicants have taken into account the Examiner's various grounds of rejection as they relate to claims 26-32 in presenting new replacement claims 33-37, which are, thus, respectfully also believed to be in condition for allowance.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
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MAF:stb

Respectfully submitted,



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